



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS AUGUST CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT MONTH IN VIRGINIA

Richmond – Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine has proclaimed August 2006 as Child Support Enforcement Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The proclamation publicly recognizes Virginia's Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) Program and its staff as critical components of Virginia's efforts to promote self-reliance and personal responsibility.

"Virginia does an outstanding job in collecting child support payments," said Governor Kaine. Last year, more than \$587 million was collected in child support for over 484,000 children, a quarter of the Commonwealth's child population, a 5 percent increase over the previous year. "The interests of the children in Virginia are being diligently pursued and protected by dedicated professionals at the local, regional and state levels, and I thank them for their efforts," he said.

"Virginia's Child Support Enforcement Program was recently recognized by the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) as the Nation's Outstanding Child Support Enforcement Program. Each year, we strive to improve so that we can provide the children of the Commonwealth with what is owed to them," said DCSE Director Nick Young. To accomplish this goal, DCSE has initiated innovative projects that improve customer service and child support collections by collaborating with Virginia's law enforcement agencies, the judicial community, and through public/private partnerships.

Virginia's DCSE was the first state child support agency in the Nation to subpoena cell phone providers to obtain address and phone numbers of delinquent noncustodial parents. It also pioneered the statewide use of full-page local newspaper ads picturing unlocated, egregiously-delinquent noncustodial parents.

DCSE's successful Passport Denial Program, which makes it possible to revoke, refuse, restrict or limit a passport previously issued to an individual owing a child support debt greater than \$5,000, has served as an effective enforcement tool.

In federal Fiscal Year 2004, the federal government awarded a \$10.7 million bonus to Virginia, recognizing its child support enforcement program as one of the most cost effective and exceptional in the Nation.

This year, Virginia's DCSE implemented a centralized Customer Service Call Center, located in Martinsville, Virginia, to provide enhanced services to child support customers. The Center is expected to handle over 8.8 million calls per year either through its automated voice response system or through customer service representatives.

For more information on child support enforcement in Virginia visit the VDSS Web site at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/dcse.html>

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) <http://www.dss.virginia.gov> Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with Federal and State law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 121 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

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